

Holter Hydroelectric Facility

4-Car Garage

(Holter Hydroelectric Facility, Building No. 61)

1200 feet west of Powerhouse

Wolf Creek Vicinity

Lewis and Clark County

Montana

HAER No. MT-94-G

HAER
10-11
25-WOCP
10-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Rocky Mountain System Support Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HOLTER HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY,
4-CAR GARAGE
(HOLTER HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY, BUILDING NO. 61)

HAER
MONT
25-WOCRE
16-

HAER No. MT-94-G

I. INTRODUCTION

Location: The 4-Car Garage (Building No. 61) is located within the Holter Hydroelectric Facility Historic District near the small community of Wolf Creek in Lewis and Clark County, Montana. It stands approximately 1200 west of the Powerhouse, and is one of three historic garages grouped at the southeast end of the operators' camp for the facility.

Quad: Sheep Creek

UTM: Zone 12; Easting 423170; Northing 5204430

Date of Construction: 1927

Present The Montana Power Company
40 E. Broadway
Butte, Montana 59701

Present Use: Storage

Significance: The Holter Hydroelectric Facility Historic District is significant as one of the most intact hydroelectric generating plants and operators' camps on the Missouri-Madison Project. The 4-Car Garage contributes to the significance of the district as an example of a support facility constructed by The Montana Power Company at its isolated hydroelectric power plants. It is also representative of the design concepts of the period.

Historian: Mary McCormick
Renewable Technologies, Inc.
Butte, Montana
January 1998

II. HISTORY

The 4-Car Garage (Building No. 61) is associated with a fairly massive program by The Montana Power Company to upgrade facilities at its remote hydroelectric plants during the 1920s and 1930s. It was constructed at Holter in 1930 for use by the residents of the operators' camp.¹

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The 4-Car Garage (Building No. 61) is one of three historic support buildings grouped around a common driveway on a small rise at the southeast end of the operators' camp at Holter (Figure 1). It stands on the south side of the drive, while the Mechanic's Garage (MT-94-F) is on the west side of the drive and the 3-Car Garage (MT-94-H) on the east. Rolling foothills rise behind (south) the garage complex.

The 4-Car Garage is a vernacular building form, typically in both design concepts and details of American architecture of the 1920s and 1930s. Other than an historic addition at the rear, the garage has sustained few alterations since construction.

The 4-Car Garage is a wood-frame building, measuring 21' (north-south) x 40'10" (east-west; Figure 2). It rests on a concrete foundation and is topped by a hipped roof. The southwest end of the building shares a common wall with Mechanic's Garage (MT-94-F), and a paneled-wood door is set between its northeast corner and the 3-Car Garage (MT-94-H).

The exterior walls of the 4-Car Garage are sheathed by drop siding with a 5" exposure. Three-and-one-half inch cornerboards trim the wall corners, and 10" frieze boards delineate the wall juncture with the roof. A water table at the foundation is created by a slightly-projecting beveled drip above a 10" board apron.

The hipped roof of the garage has a moderate pitch. Board decking covers the truss system. It is sheathed by interlocking asphalt shingles over two layers of wood shingles. The roof eaves are open and have a wide overhang underscored by false rafter tails.

The rear (south) addition to the garage was built after April 1940, but likely before the early 1950s.² Set under a shed extension of the roof, it is approximately 3' wide and extends the full length of the building. The exterior siding on the addition matches the 5" drop of the main garage. Other finishing treatments are also the same.

The front (north) side of the garage is divided into four bays of garage door openings. Each bay holds a pair of outward-swinging doors with 1x4 surrounds. The doors are paneled-wood half-light units with 2x4 light window glazing. Each of them swings on metal strap hinges.

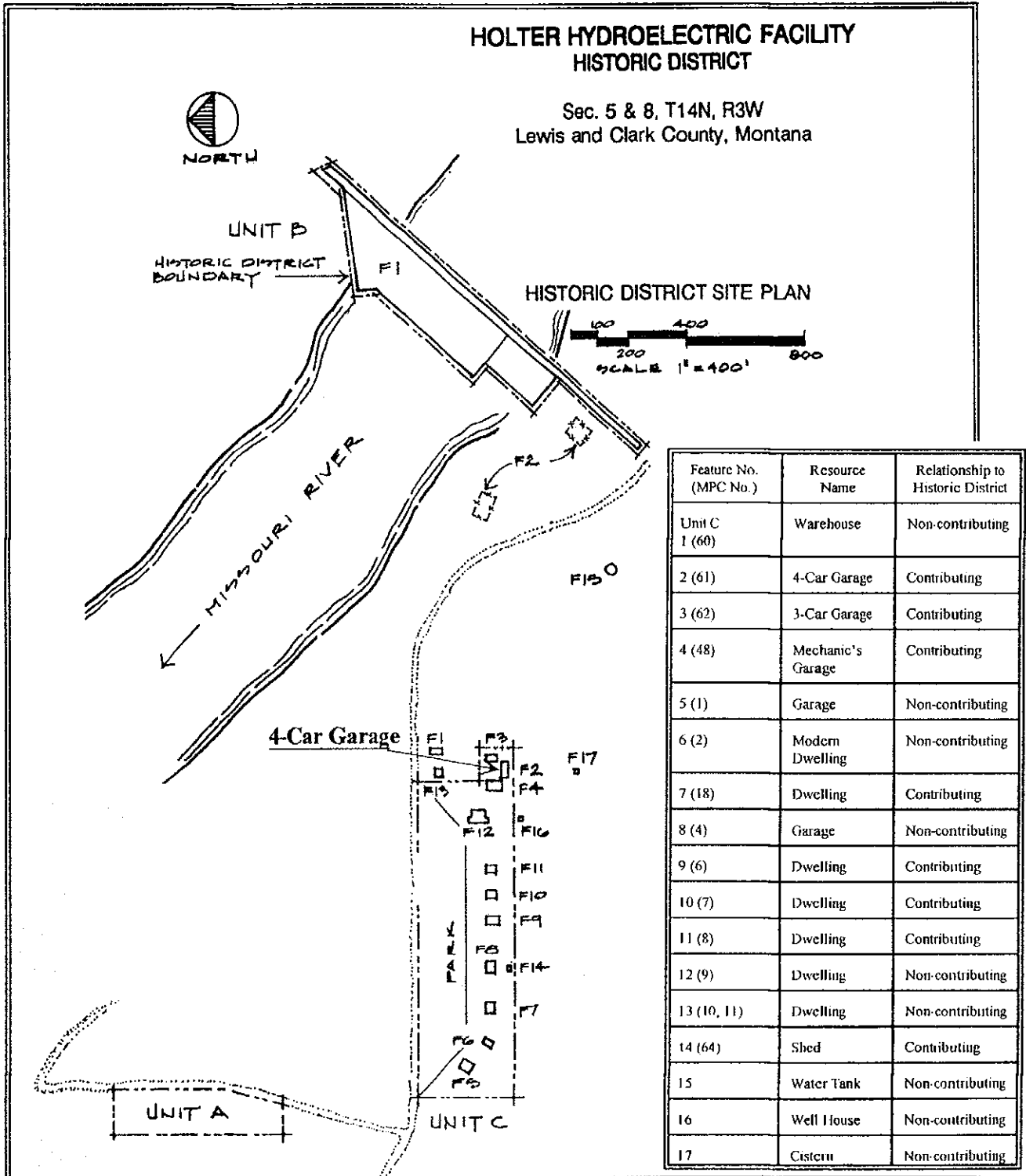


Figure 1. Holter Hydroelectric Facility Historic District.

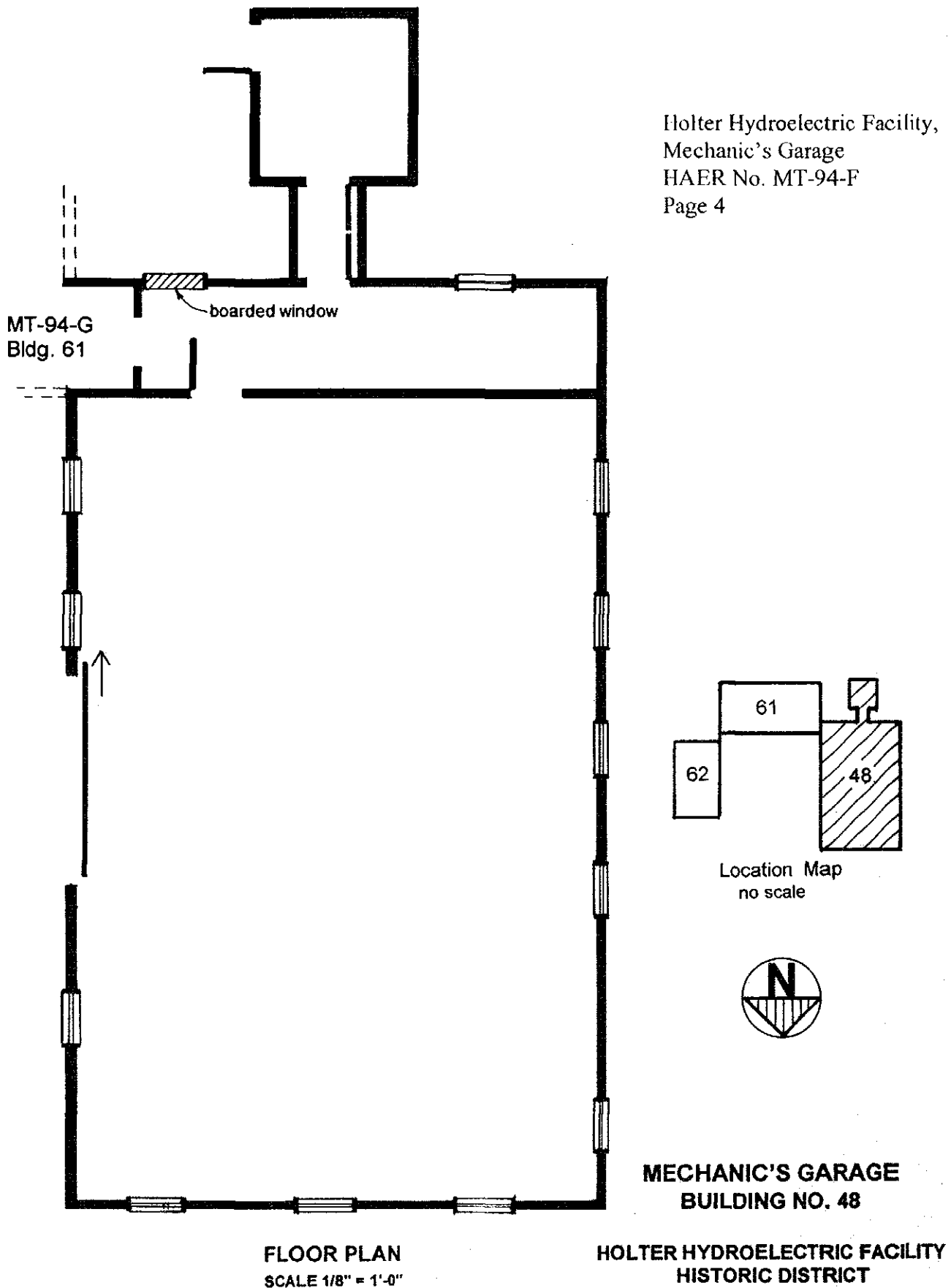


Figure 2. Mechanic's Garage (Building No. 48) Floor Plan.

Plywood has been placed over the lower section of the doors in the center bay toward the west. Besides the doors, there are no other openings into the garage.

Remnants of a narrow box constructed of boards are attached to the garage's west side. The original function of this box is unknown.

The interior of the garage is divided into four stalls by three partition walls (see Figure 2). Each wall is constructed of two layers of vertical boards with diagonal board bracing. Floors in the garage are plank, the exterior walls are unfinished, and the ceiling is covered by compressed fiberboard sheeting. A single electric bulb in a plain porcelain socket hangs from the ceiling in each stall and positioned in each interior wall is an original electric space heater.

IV. FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY

The Montana Power Company plans to demolish the 4-Car Garage at the Holter Hydroelectric Facility (FERC Project No. 2188). The company has sponsored recording the building to the standards of the Historic American Engineering Record.

V. ENDNOTES

1. Montana Power Company, "Structures and Improvement Report," April 1940, unpublished report on file at The Montana Power Company, Property Accounting, Butte.

2. The garage's rear addition is not depicted on a 1940s map of Holter, and other company records of the period provide dimensions the size of the original section only. Ibid.; Montana Power Company, "Insurance Map of Holter Montana Year 1920," 1921, revised to April 5, 1940, Drawing No. 22568-C, sheet 3 on file at The Montana Power Company, Hydro Engineering, Butte; Montana Power Company, "Reclassification of Electric Plant, January 1, 1937," vol. 1., unpublished report on file at The Montana Power Company, Property Accounting Butte.

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Montana Power Company, "Insurance Map of Holter Montana, Year 1920." 1921, revised to April 5, 1940. Drawing No. 22568-D, sheet 3 on file at The Montana Power Company, Hydro Engineering, Butte.

_____. "Reclassification of Electric Plant, January 1, 1937." Vol. 1. Unpublished report on file at The Montana Power Company, Property Accounting, Butte.

_____. "Structures and Improvement Report." April 1940. Unpublished report on file at The Montana Power Company, Property Accounting, Butte.